

Early Forest Service

Montana's First Ranger

In 1902, Frank F. Leibig became the first Forest Ranger. He was given a double-bitted axe, a one-man crosscut saw, and some ammunition, and assigned to patrol in the area of present day Glacier National Park.



Uniform

Only one part of the Forest Service Ranger's uniform has remained constant since its creation - the design of the bronze badge. The first badge was issued July 1, 1905.



Ranger Life

Rangers were expected to build trails, patrol thousands of acres day and night, pack, shoot, and fight fires. New rangers were paid \$900 to \$1,500 per year, and required to supply a horse, sidearms and clothing.

Not Everyone can be a Ranger

The first rangers had to be hardy, respectable men with outdoor skills. There was no special educational requirement until the 1930's when the Forest Service announced it would no longer appoint rangers at the professional level without a degree in forestry or related fields.



Rangers